

CHAPTER FIVE

CECIL ISAAC WALL (1884 - 1947) & MABEL MAIR WALL (1901-1979): THEIR LIVES AND TIMES



Cecil and Mabel Wall lived throughout the most turbulent time the United States had seen. They lived through both the World Wars and the Great Depression. In spite of what was happening around them, they were able to successfully raise a family of six children. Both Mabel and Cecil were masters at their crafts. Cecil was a skilled carpenter and home builder. Mabel was also a home builder, but from the inside out. She used her warmth and compassion instead of nails and hammers to build. The Walls witnessed the coming of the airplane and the automobile and many other technological advances. They heard some of the first words spoken through the air waves without wires. Throughout their lives they remained focused on the preservation of a long legacy passed down from the first Wall — the legacy of family unity.

Settlers had been in Wallsburg for 24 years when Cecil Isaac Wall was born to Isaac and Marcia Wall. Cecil's grandfather, William Madison Wall, was the founder of the small community just outside Heber City, and was the Presiding Elder of Wasatch County. Isaac and his family lived on William's original ranch. Cecil was the third child and first boy of the Wall family. Cecil's elder sisters were Edith, seven-years-old, and Jessie, four-years-old. On wash days Edith and Jessie would clothe their baby brother in their dresses as he had only one set of clothing.

Cecil was born in a transition time in Utah. For several years the leaders of the Mormon Church and the territory leaders sought for Utah's acceptance into the Union as a state. After concessions were made, the federal government recognized Utah as a state in 1896. Wasatch County had also changed during this time.

In 1899, the Rio Grande Railroad built a depot and placed track in Heber City. Having the railroad transformed the Heber Valley from just an agricultural center into a commercial area. Businesses opened and eventually thrived. Transportation was important to the economy in the Valley. Among the first businesses in Heber was the livery stable built and operated by the Murdock brothers. They hired out horse drawn carriages and buggies that went from Park City to Heber daily. On 29 September 1899 the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad opened a line from Provo to the Wasatch County area. The line had long been awaited by Heber residents because it would enable them to ship their livestock and farm commodities to outside markets. *The Wasatch Wave* reported the day's events.

RAILROAD COMPLETED FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1899

Heber Now in Touch with Outside World

E. W. Sullivan appointed a state agent at Heber — Schedule very satisfactory — Two trains arrive in and leave Heber each day. The Provo Canyon branch of the Rio Grande Western Railroad which connects Heber City with Provo is now completed and ready for business. The length of the road is 25.8 miles. There are seven stations on the line between Provo and Heber.¹

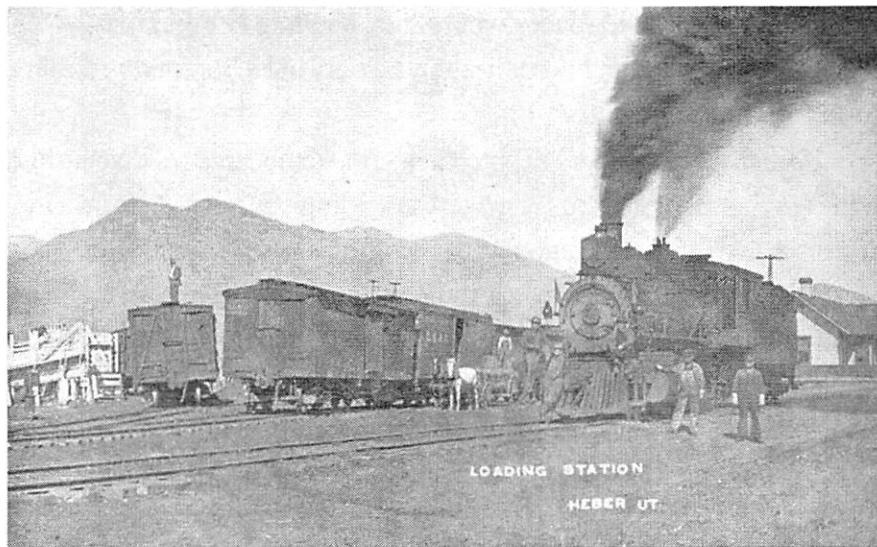
Residents of the Valley greeted the first train with a brass band and hordes of onlookers. After the first train arrived, the procession went to the Wasatch County Courthouse for a special presentation. Stake President Abram Hatch and the mayor of Provo each made a brief speech. Governor Hammond and other state officials also made speeches. It was a great day for Wasatch County.

SCHOOLS IN THE HEBER VALLEY

At the age of six, Cecil Wall was enrolled in the Brigham Young Grade School in Provo, Utah which he attended from 1890 until 1898. Many families like the Walls chose to send their children out of the county for their grade school and high school education. There were many problems with the school system in the Heber Valley. Churches other than the Mormon Church were establishing elementary schools for children. Mormons were unwilling to send their children to be taught by other

religions. The Mormon Church abandoned its elementary schools early in favor of the district schools. But at the turn of the century, the district schools were the only secular schools. For example, in 1901 school trustees pressed to avoid hiring a non-Mormon teacher. Even with Mormon teachers, many Wasatch County residents refused to support the schools. The city's district schools struggled to remain open around the turn of the century. In the fall of 1889 the *Wave* reported that there were enough students to hold classes in the East, West, and Southwest schools in Heber City and that they would run all four terms of the year. The year before, the West school had closed because there were not enough children. Two weeks later the paper announced that only the East and Southwest schools would be operating.²

Many residents still wanted to see the Mormon Church sponsor academies instead of having town-operated, government-regulated schools. A newspaper article in the local *Wave* pointed out when people complained about the schools that they should realize they could not have "first class results with third class facilities." The major problem was too many scattered schools throughout the towns. To solve this problem, a *Wave* article called for everyone "with the good of the community in mind" to support a single school. After some encouragement, Heber Central School finally opened in 1892. By 1898 it was over crowded. In 1905, after much discussion, the school board approved a new school, the North School.³



The Heber loading station was adjacent to the railroad depot.

The district schools extended through the eighth grade. Those students wanting more education were forced to leave the county. As early as 1880 Wasatch Stake President Abram Hatch asked the women's organization, the Relief Society to use their influence in establishing a high school. That, however, never happened. As in other areas of Utah, the Mormon Church sponsored a local stake academy. The Wasatch Stake Academy started in 1889, and 31 students attended the first year. The academy struggled from the beginning. Some claimed that it was because Abram Hatch did not support the school, but Hatch denied the charge. Whatever the reason, attempts to continue the academy and construct a building failed even though land was donated. Seeing the failure of the academy, in 1902 church president Joseph F. Smith asked the stake to turn the land back to Elisha Averett, the former owner, at cost and to return all donations. Students, like Cecil Wall, were encouraged to attend Brigham Young Academy in Provo, and the Wasatch Stake rented a home in Provo for the students from the county.⁴ Those who did not send their children to the church school in Provo sent their children to Salt Lake City to attend the University of Utah. This school, however, was viewed by many Mormons as "gentile-oriented."

The only option for higher education was outside of Wasatch County until 1895 when a high school was added to Heber's Central School. Tuition was five dollars a term, and the *Wave* carried a lengthy article describing the school's curriculum. The local high school received very little support. Many students continued to go out of the county to Provo or Salt Lake City for their education. In 1898 the *Wave* questioned why parents sent their children to places where they had to pay eight to twelve dollars a term and board when the students could attend school in Heber for five dollars. But the newspaper's appeal failed.

By 1900 the school board decided it was too expensive to keep the high school open for the ten to twelve students who were attending. Attempts to form a high school continued until 1907. Even the support of Mormon church leaders did not enable the short-lived schools to last more than a short time. Money was often the problem; for example, in 1904 the residents of Heber voted to levy a four-mill tax for the school district but defeated a two-mill tax for the high school.⁵

A reason that the Heber Valley had so much trouble maintaining a high school was because school districts could not combine to form a high school district before the law changed in 1907. After several false starts, the high school bonds finally passed in 1912. In 1913 local stake president J. R. Murdock dedicated the new high school building located on Main Street between Second and Third South in Heber City.⁶

The Brigham Young Academy was popular with Mormon parents who wanted their children to be taught by members of the Church. President Brigham Young had sent Abraham O. Smoot to Provo as a stake president, community leader, and supporter of the Provo branch of the academy then called the University of Deseret. In spite of President Smoot's support, the school briefly failed financially. Subsequently, in 1875, President Young appointed President Smoot and five other prominent Utah County men and one woman, Martha Jane Knowlton Coray — an author and teacher — as trustees of the school. A deed was drawn up and put into force. The new school was called the Brigham Young Academy. To ensure that there would be religious instruction at the school, "Brigham Young specifically stipulated that the 'Old and New Testament, the Book of Mormon and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants shall be read and their doctrines inculcated in the Academy.'" A few weeks later Warren N. Dusenberry was appointed the school's first principal.⁷

When Cecil completed the 10th Grade, he moved back to Wallsburg to work on his father's farm. When he was old enough to handle the horses on the ranch, his job was to break the horses for riding and other domestic uses. Later in his life, Cecil enjoyed the rodeos that came to Heber City. He understood the challenges of riding horses at high speed and had experienced being bucked off horses. His father, Isaac, paid Cecil for his labors. When he was in his teens, his father would pay him in land and other possessions in turn for his management of the ranch.

MINING AND AGRICULTURE IN THE HEBER VALLEY

Most residents of Wasatch County during this time either worked in cattle ranching and agriculture, or in the nearby mines of Summit County. Geologically, Wasatch County is located adjacent to the American Fork and Park City mining districts, two productive mining regions. Mining continued to be an important part of the Wasatch County economy as it had in Isaac Wall's early days. In the eastern part of Wasatch County, prospectors explored the Uinta National Forest looking for minerals. Many came seeking a lost gold mine that the Indians reportedly told early Mormons about. Explorers found an oil shale deposit of some value in Daniels Canyon around the turn of the century, and by 1909 William S. Bethers, J. P. Jordan, Ephraim Bethers, and George Bethers started developing the "wax". It became known as the Chinese Wax Mine. According to geologists, it contained a small deposit of a waxy oil embedded in the nearby mountains.⁸

One of the most productive mines in the Park City/Wasatch County area was the Ontario. In 1899 the *Salt Lake Mining Review* reported that it had produced the most dividends of any silver mine in the western United States. This mine and others in Park City provided many jobs for residents of the County. As many as 60 percent of the miners employed at the Park Utah Mine were residents of Heber and Midway.⁹

Mining occurred in other areas of Wasatch County. Residents filed claims at the Southern Tier, Big Four, Heber City, and Wide West mines on Snake Creek, and in 1904 they were seeing results. the *Salt Lake Mining Review* reported, “Keep your eye on Snake Creek.” In 1911 Midway citizens leased the Southern Tier claims which were no longer in production.¹⁰

With the influx of currency, businesses increased in Heber City. As stated, mining, agriculture, and livestock were successful enterprises in Wasatch County; but some service industries also thrived. Business was booming in 1909. Construction was taking place with the building of Wasatch High School (1909), the Heber Power and Light plant (1909), and the Bank of Heber building (1904).

LDS Stake President Abram Hatch operated one of the first retail stores in the valley. During the 1860s Mark Jeffs, a Mormon convert from England, saved seventy dollars from his work on the railroad. He invested his savings in a small store in Heber City which grew until Jeffs sold his business to the Heber Mercantile Company. In 1891 Tom Clotworth and Heber G. Crook opened the first meat market in Heber City. The next year Addison and John Hicken bought out Crook, and then in 1898 they also



The Heber Bank and the Mercantile Company thrived as more people settled in the beautiful Heber Valley.

bought out Clotworthy and combined with the Hicken Brothers Butcher Shop. Eventually all town meat markets, except Earl Smith's, became part of the grocery store.¹¹ As Heber City grew, it was able to support more businesses. Midway, Charleston, and Wallsburg also had small businesses that provided services for the local residents.

In 1907, during this business boom in Heber, Cecil Wall was married to Vastia Emily Meacham. The two met in Heber and lived in Wallsburg. On 1 August 1908 their first child, Lavenia, was born. Cecil was 24-years-old at the time. However, the marriage was short-lived.

During this time there was an influx of several ethnic-groups of immigrants to Heber Valley. After the transcontinental railroad was completed at Promontory Summit, in northern Utah, many diversified groups of people came and ended the seclusion of the Mormon settlements. Even in Wasatch County the Mormons were not the only religious group in the area. Besides sponsoring schools, other churches also held regular worship services. The Methodists used their church to hold classes starting in 1889. Ministers came and went; sometimes Heber was combined with the Park City circuit. When services resumed in 1901 after a short break, the *Wave* reported: "After so long a lapse of time it would seem almost impossible to marshal the forces together in such a short time but the people here showed a lively spirit and had been anxious to help along the work."

There was a small scandal when the local Methodist minister, J. A. Holmes, was forced to resign the year after he married Ida Duncan from the area. The *Salt Lake Tribune* carried an article which implied that he had to resign because his wife was a Mormon; but the *Wave* pointed out, "It will be a surprise to the people of Heber to learn that Miss Duncan was not a Mormon. She never was a member of the Church and hers is not a Mormon family." Despite these setbacks, the Methodists continued to be mildly successful, and in 1909 they bought the lot at the corner of Center and First West to construct a church (which later became the Heber LDS Second Ward) separate from the school.¹²

There were disagreements between Methodist school officials and city officials. The city wanted to ring the New West school bell to announce curfew, but the women teachers objected to the marshal coming into the school, since they used part of the building as living quarters. Non-Mormon groups did not always feel welcome. In 1889 boys disturbed Methodist meetings with "boisterous and ungentlemanly



An early photograph of Heber City's Main Street.

conduct," throwing rocks at the door. The Methodist minister did not press charges, and Mormon stake president Abram Hatch told the local Mormon leaders to leave the Methodists in peace. But problems continued. In 1895 a man published a letter in a Swedish newspaper about the Methodist experience in Heber. According to the article, "It is risky enough for a non-Mormon to attend a Methodist meeting, when the 'Saints' have gathered and are blockading the entrance to the chapel. How they do carry on." There was "a boisterous running in and out and bombarding the church windows with pebbles." The *Wave* pointed out that it had complained about the "hoodlums" breaking up the meetings.¹³

After Cecil was separated from Vastia Meacham, he worked in and around Heber City. He stayed there until April 1914. It was then that he moved from Wasatch County to Copperton, Utah. Copperton was the mining community of the Utah Copper Company (formerly Bingham Mining Company). In 1914, Utah Copper was one of the largest employers in the state with 2,501 workers.¹⁴ Cecil worked as a foreman from 1914 until 1917 when he left the mine to join the U.S. Navy and was sent to Europe during World War I.¹⁵

KENNECOTT COPPER CORPORATION

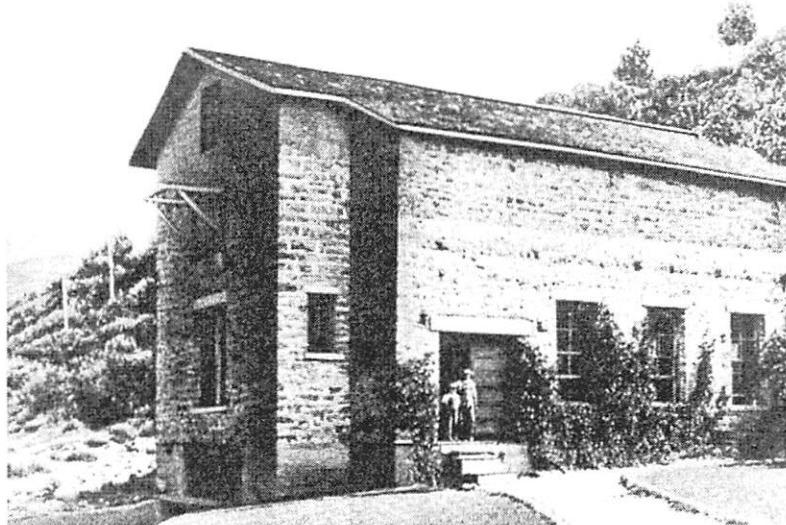
Two early pioneers, Thomas and Sanford Bingham, were the first to mine in the canyon later named after them. The Binghams were ranchers who grazed cattle upon the hillsides on the western side of the Salt Lake Valley. In 1848, the Binghams

found outcroppings of ore amidst the grass, but they lacked the equipment necessary for smelting and refining the ore. President Brigham Young told the Binghamhs to disregard their discovery.¹⁶ The brothers later moved to Weber County, where they were pioneer settlers of the city of Ogden.

The discovery of copper ore near Bingham Canyon was reported to the *Deseret News* in Salt Lake City. The article reported that “in these days gold is the principal thing sought after, and a man who would engage in copper mining in an inland county like this, might by some, be considered in a state of insanity.”¹⁷

Ore deposits were again discovered a year later by young boys working for the U.S. Army during their occupation in Utah during the Civil War. The ore was taken to the troop commander, Colonel Patrick E. Connor, who had it assayed and directed the recording of the claim and the formation of the West Mountain Mining District.

Upon this discovery, Connor encouraged his soldiers to prospect in Bingham Canyon. In the spring of 1864 several companies of volunteers were officially ordered to prospect in various locations in the territory. Numerous outcroppings of gold and copper were found in the Bingham location. It was not until June 1868 that the first train carload of copper ore was mined from Bingham Canyon, hauled to Weber County, and finally shipped to Baltimore. After the completion of the transcontinental railroad in



The Heber Power and Light plant was built in 1909 and provided the growing community with electricity.

1869 and the construction of a branch line to Bingham Canyon in 1873, there was a boom in silver and lead extraction from the mine. It was not until the 1890s that the primary mined ore was copper.

The name and ownership of the mine changed several times in its early years. In 1896 the Bingham Mine was called the Highland Boy Gold Mining Company, in 1901 it was called Bingham Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, in 1910 it was called Utah Copper Company, and while Cecil Wall was working at the mine when its name was changed to Kennecott Copper Corporation in 1915.

At the turn of the century, mining engineers had developed an innovative method to extract ores from the ground — the Porphyry Copper Mining method. This method concentrated on the extraction of copper from raw earth in bulk rather than digging tunnels and mine shafts in search of a vein of copper or gold. This method revolutionized the copper industry. Instead of digging mine shafts deep into the earth, the Bingham mine consisted of a giant open pit where steam shovels extracted earth in a circular shape layer after layer. Generating plants would sift through the earth at a rapid pace and small particles of ore were lifted from the mass material and processed. The famous industrialist, John D. Rockefeller visited the open-pit mine during the time that Cecil Wall worked there. When he viewed the beehive of activity created by the numerous steam shovels, he said, "It's the greatest industrial sight in the world."¹⁸

In March 1910 another famous industrialist, Daniel Guggenheim came to Utah to inspect the Bingham Mine. He was interested in strengthening his stronghold on the mining industry by merging his Boston Consolidated Copper Company with Utah Copper. Later that year the merger was successful. A few years later, the Guggenheims desired to consolidate and incorporate all of their mining holdings across the country and in Mexico. On 29 April 1915 the Kennecott Copper Corporation was incorporated as a holding company to assume the ownership of all the Guggenheim-affiliated copper properties throughout the world.¹⁹ During the years that Cecil Wall worked as a foreman at Kennecott, the mine produced the most copper of any mine in the nation. In 1914, the mine produced 115,690,445 pounds of copper, in 1915, 148,397,006, in 1916, 187,531,824, and in 1917, 195,837,111 pounds of copper was produced. In addition to the primary copper ore produced Kennecott also produced \$4,489,884 in gold and silver production between 1914 and 1917. Gold and silver were tertiary findings.²⁰

WORLD WAR I

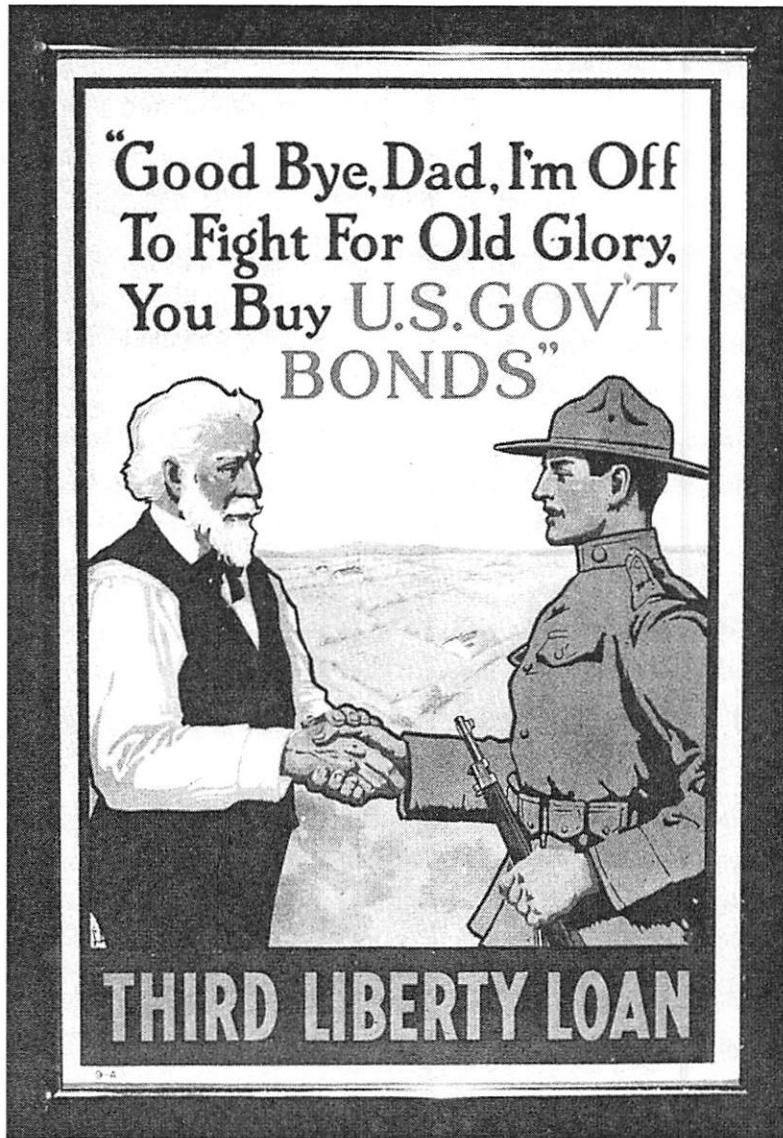
On 15 April 1917 Cecil enlisted and was the first enlistee from Wasatch County after America entered the war. Cecil's father, Isaac Oliver Wall, served on the draft board during the war. World War I started in Europe in June 1914, coincidentally the same summer that Cecil's mother, Marcia, died and Cecil started work at the Bingham Copper Mine, also that Fall Isaac Oliver was defeated in his campaign to continue as Sheriff, but was re-elected in 1916.

Complicated alliances began to form throughout the world resulting in international conflict. The United States did not officially enter the conflict until three years later. Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, declared that it was a war for the purpose of preserving democracy, liberty, and peace. Many Americans responded to the cry for democracy and against Germany. After working at the Bingham Mine for three years, 33-year-old Cecil Wall decided that he would enlist into the United States Navy Air Corps.

Like many Americans, Wasatch County citizens first opposed United States involvement in World War I. William Lindsay, a Heber resident recalled, "It was August 1914 that terrible world war started that finally involved practically all the nations of the earth and in such a terrible slaughter of men and destruction of property." He saw President Woodrow Wilson as a "man of peace" and felt Wilson won reelection in 1916 because he promised to keep the United States out of war. Lindsay believed that Wilson was unsuccessful in fulfilling his campaign promise because he feared what would happen if Germany won.²¹

Once their country entered the war, Wasatch County residents were willing to make sacrifices to win. One way was by enlisting in the armed forces, like Cecil Wall. At a Fourth of July celebration in 1916, mothers pledged to give their sons to the war, if necessary. Between 1 April and 30 June 1917, twenty-one men volunteered from Wasatch County. Vernon H. Probst, a Midway resident, remembered seven friends volunteered to go into the army. He had a broken foot at the time, so he had to remain at home. In 1918, however, he was drafted and served for six months. When these soldiers left, the local residents sent them off with celebrations and parades. In patriotic meetings, community leaders explained, "War is a most terrible thing but it is far better than dishonored cowardice."²²

Response from the State of Utah as a whole was just as enthusiastic. A total of 24,382 men enlisted, which far exceeded the state's quota. The American Red Cross asked for \$350,000 for aid from Utah and received \$520,000. When the government



*Cecil Isaac Wall was the first in Wasatch County to
enlist after the U.S. entered World War I in April 1917.*

began to sell liberty bonds, the people of Utah were given the quota of \$6,500,000; instead they purchased bonds worth \$9,400,000. It was the custom for each state to raise a volunteer military unit. Utah provided the 145th Field Artillery Regiment. Six hundred of this regiment saw duty overseas.²³ Wasatch County was diligent in purchasing Liberty Bonds. Slogans and recommendations from local leaders encouraged residents to comply with the federal request. A common slogan was "If you can't fight, your money can."

In October 1917 President Joseph R. Murdock of the Heber LDS Stake announced at a priesthood meeting that they should purchase \$10,000 worth of bonds and asked members of the Church to contribute. James W. Clyde, then a state senator, chaired a local defense council that set a goal to sell \$80,000 worth of bonds. On 21 October 1917, declared Patriotic Sunday by the federal government, speakers at all Mormon Church sacrament meetings spoke on the value of purchasing bonds. The money came in quickly. The *Wave* reported that \$70,000 had been raised by 26 October. By the next day, the stake president thanked the Wasatch County populous for raising \$100,000 — \$20,000 more than the county's quota. To celebrate, the Red Cross held a parade in honor of the sale and then sold donated cows to augment the total.²⁴

In the U.S. Navy Air Corps, Cecil Wall had the rank of Water Tender and served as Fireman 1st Class aboard the destroyer, *U.S.S. Kearsarge*. Wall's ship sailed throughout Europe and the men spent time in the ports of England, France, and Italy. Later he told his children about his adventures overseas, "about the U.S.O. parties, the English girls who had bad teeth and the unforgettable beauty of the Isle of Capri in Italy."²⁵ He sang World War I songs for the rest of his life.

The war was winding down by late 1918 and some U.S. troops began returning home from abroad. In June the *U.S.S. Kearsarge* returned to American ports from distant seas. Cecil Wall and the crew of his ship visited ports in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Pelham Bay Park and New York City, New York, Newport, Rhode Island, and Puget Sound, Washington. While visiting New York City, Cecil visited the city center and was impressed by the massive sky scrapers. With a building and engineering background, he marveled at the construction and design of these mammoth structures. On 23 June 1919, he received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy and returned home.

Cecil returned to the changing United States. With the end of the First World War, President Woodrow Wilson presented plans to establish permanent world peace. His goals included a league of nations that would, by discussion and

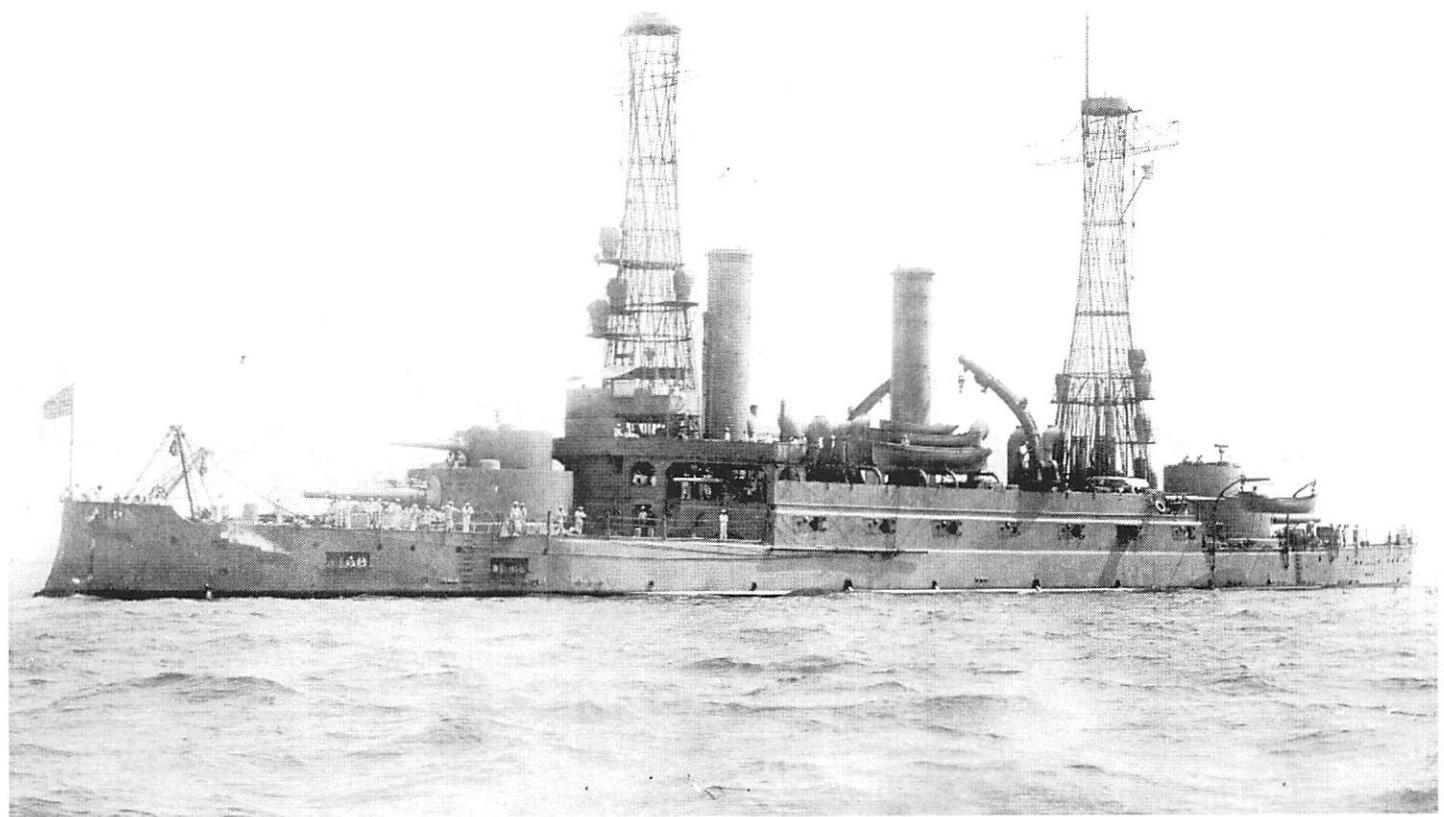
parliamentary procedures, solve the conflicts that might arise among the world's countries. Since the farewell address of George Washington, the United States had refrained as much as possible from entanglements with foreign nations, especially those in Europe. Wilson's plans reflected a departure from traditional United States foreign policy. When the president sought to have his treaty ratified in the United States Senate, a partisan battle ensued. Many Republican senators, including Utah's Reed Smoot, only favored the league if certain amendments were added to the charter to preserve American sovereignty. Others vigorously opposed the league all together.

In February 1919, in an effort to promote the treaty, the Mountain Congress of the League to Enforce Peace held its convention in Salt Lake City. Former U.S. President William Howard Taft attended, and Mormon Church President Heber J. Grant conducted many of the sessions. Many Utahns were in favor of the league. However, in spite of the efforts of those who supported the Wilson treaty, it suffered a crushing defeat in the United States Congress.

During this time some people in the United States joined in a movement to stamp out many of the nation's evils and injustices. An essential part of this movement, centered around evangelical Protestant groups, involved prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages. The Mormon Church in Utah was spearheading the push toward prohibition. Soon the Utah Prohibition League was organized and led by President Grant. Some Church leaders, including Senator Smoot, preferred a "local option" on Prohibition rather than a nationwide ban on the sale of liquor. Others saw the ban as an infringement upon their freedom and urged Church members to continue to be taught the evils and consequences of consuming alcohol. The forces favoring outlawing the sale of alcohol, however, were so strong that the Eighteenth Amendment passed, making Prohibition a national law. The Mormon Church officially backed the amendment to the Constitution. Elder George Albert Smith spoke about the issue:

There are those among us today who have been blinded by the philosophies and foolishness of men. There are those who reject the advice and counsel of the man that God has placed at the head of this Church.

I am grieved as I stand here and think of the way we rejected the counsel of President Grant. And I don't want to be counted among that 'we' for I was not—but



Fireman 1st Class Cecil Wall served on the destroyer, U.S.S. Kearsarge.

there were those among us who rejected the advice of the President of this Church and voted to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment and approved of bringing intoxicating liquor back into our community and legalizing it. That action has increased our accidents and murders and thousands of the sons and daughters of America are losing themselves and are being debauched beyond the possibility of recovery.

Had we listened to the man who stands at out head and done our duty we would not be in this valley and other places are suffering from the distresses that have come upon us, at least, we would not be responsible for them.

People who haven't very much information suddenly come along with a bright idea, and they suggest 'this is the way' or 'that is the way,' and although it is in conflict with the advice of the Lord some are persuaded to try it. The Lord has given safe advice and appointed the President of his Church to interpret that advice. If we ignore what he advises, as the President of the Church, we may discover that we have made a serious mistake.²⁶

PROGRESS IN WASATCH COUNTY

Technology had also changed the face of the world. The airplane was a new mode of transportation and the radio was a vehicle for communication. Wasatch County experienced both at the end of the war. The first airplane to land in the valley came in 1921. Lieutenant Russell L. Maughan flew an Army DeHaviland plane into Heber to visit his mother-in-law, Mrs. David Fisher. Maughan later was well known for his nonstop transcontinental flight from New York to San Francisco on 21 June 1925. When he landed on the James W. Clyde farm in Heber, it was the first time many of the residents had seen an airplane. School children were dismissed from classes the following day so that they could witness the takeoff.

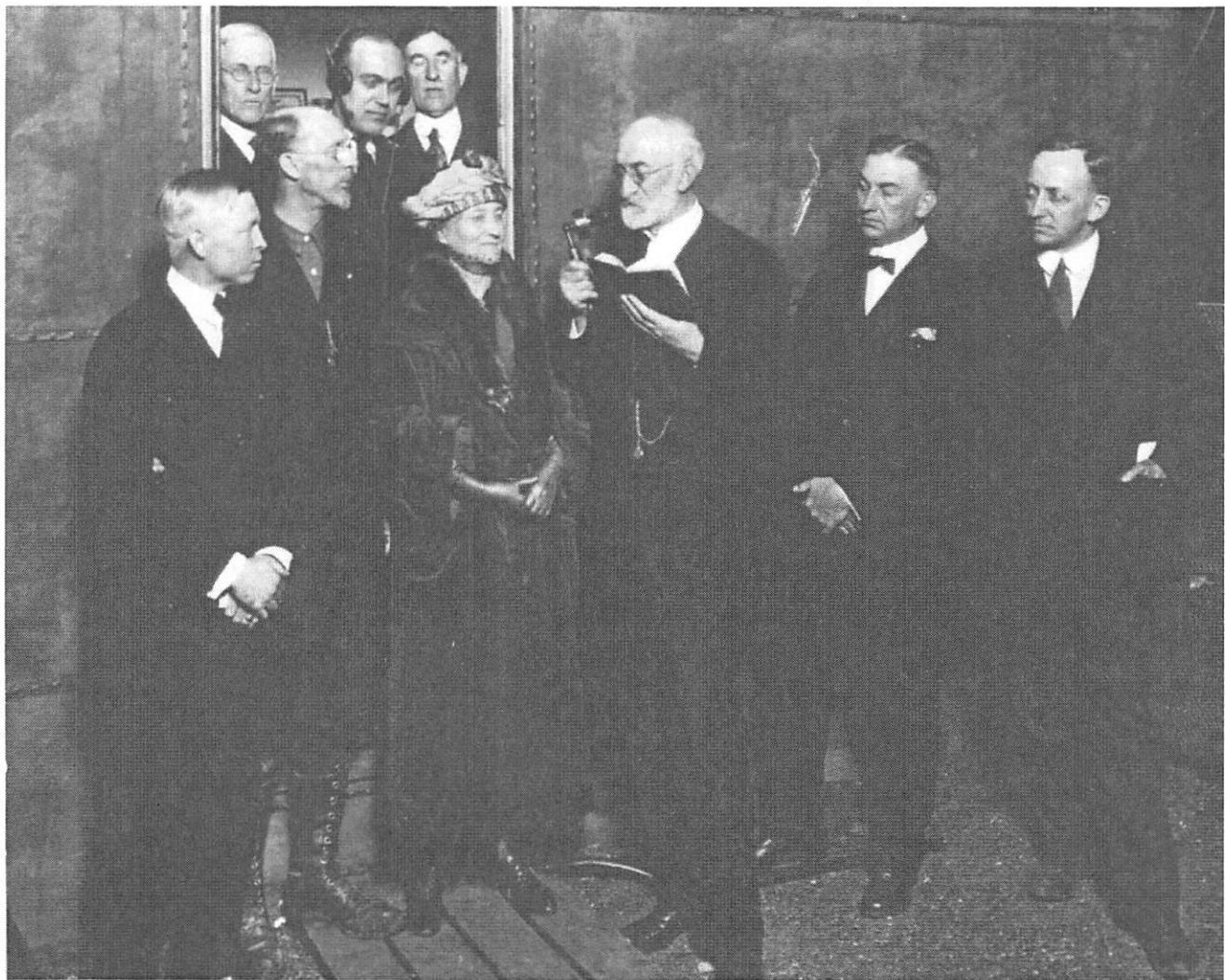


*Lt. Russell L. Maughan flew the first airplane into Heber in 1921.
Local schools were closed so that the children could watch the plane
take off.*

Radio was becoming a prominent medium of communication during the early 1920s. Radio was first considered a hobby by most. But the mass populous soon discovered the value of wireless communication. On 6 June 1922, Mormon Church President Heber J. Grant dedicated the new *Deseret News* radio station, KZN and, for the first time in Church history, delivered a message over the airways. In his talk, the Church president bore his testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the true and living God. Two years later the station began broadcasting sessions of the Church's general conference. During the summer of 1924 KZN changed its call letters to KSL.²⁷

This was the world that Cecil returned home to. When he got back, Cecil moved into his father's house in Wallsburg and managed the ranch. His father, Isaac, was 68-years-old and was finishing his term as Sheriff of Heber at the time of his return from the Navy. Isaac paid Cecil in property for his work on the farm. Later that year Isaac remarried and took Fanny Jane Young Clyde to be his second wife.

Besides managing the affairs on the Wallsburg ranch, Cecil continued to build. In 1919, Cecil built two homes in Heber City for his father who later gave them to his daughters Ruby and Amy for caring for him after the death of his first wife. Cecil worked the land in Wallsburg until 1926 when he sold his portion of the land for \$3,000.²⁸ This low selling price was a direct result of the economic depression of Wasatch County that occurred in the 1920s, just ten years prior to the Great Depression which hit the entire United States in the 1930s. The county's property valuation dropped from \$11,500,000 during the late 1920s to only \$4,500,000 in 1936. Sales



Utah's first radio broadcast in 1922 featured LDS President Heber J. Grant.

dropped 39.3 percent between 1929 and 1935. The biggest change took place in stores that did not provide general merchandise, food, automobile supplies and services, furniture, lumber, and drugstores. There were ten stores in Heber in 1929, only four in 1933, and seven in 1935. Two food stores went out of business between 1933 and 1935, leaving the Heber Mercantile, Buell's Food Store and Heber Drug among the few surviving businesses.

It was in the midst of these difficult economic times that Cecil sold the Wallsburg ranch for \$3,000. It was also during this time that he lost that money. The same day that Cecil sold the property, he had his first date with Mabel Veronica Mair Olofson. Cecil had placed the \$3,000 cashier's check in his back pocket during the date. The two went to a movie at the local theater and later went back to the Mair residence. When they reached Mabel's house, Cecil felt his pocket for the check but could feel nothing. The check was missing. The two retraced their tracks to the theater and could not find the check along the road. They went into the theater and looked for the check. Fortunately, when the show was over and the lights came on they found the check stuck to the back of the seat.²⁹

Mabel and Cecil grew to love one another. From their first date looking for the lost \$3,000 check throughout time, the couple have been together. Mabel, then 25-years-old, had two young daughters, Evelyn and Viola from her first marriage to Clarence Olofson who died in Wyoming on 18 May 1924. Cecil became very close to the young girls and treated them like they were his own. On 15 April 1926, Cecil (then 42-years-old) and Mabel were married. Their ceremony was held at the Mair residence at 188 South 400 West in Heber City.

The couple rented a home in Heber from Cecil's sister, Amy, from 1926 until 1929. During these three years he worked in the mine. He did not go back to work for Kennecott Copper Corporation, but he worked closer to his home in the silver mines in Park City. The mines in Summit County continued to be successful from their beginnings in the 1880s.

In 1915 and 1917 George W. Lambourne and George D. Blood discovered outcroppings of silver and gold west of Keetley. In 1921 their two mining companies merged, forming the Park Utah Mining Company. A small community sprang up in Keetley, about ten miles Northeast of Heber, with small homes for married employees and a boarding house for single miners. Still, 60 percent of the miners came from



This photograph of Mabel Mair Wall was taken in 1922.

Heber City and Midway. After only a three-month training period, the *Wave* reported, the local residents were good miners. Ore hauling started in January 1922, with the miners producing forty tons a day that sold at seventy dollars per ton. The *Wave* concluded, “The opening up of mines on this side of the ridge means a great deal to Wasatch county.” By 1 January 1924 the Park Utah Mining Company had shipped 100,000 tons of silver and ore.

Throughout the war years, Heber residents continued to work in the Park City mines. The work provided good wages for Heber Valley miners. In 1925 the Park City Mining and Smelting Company and Park Utah Mining Company combined to form the Park-Utah Consolidated Mines Company, which operated nine mines between Brighton and Big Cottonwood Canyon.³⁰ Cecil worked in these mines from 1926 to 1929. The wages were good, but the risk of severe accidents, long-term respiratory disease, and commuting accidents was high.



Many Heber residents worked in the Ontario Mine in nearby Park City.

Early Married Life for Cecil & Mabel Wall

The year after Cecil and Mabel were married, they had their first child. On 24 December 1927, their daughter, Maxine, was born. In 1929 Cecil decided to move his family to Daniels, five miles southwest of Heber. Cecil had arranged to buy a small portion of land from Isaac and Thea Jacob. The Jacob family was well known commercial sheep ranchers and for being among the original settlers of Daniels. The Jacob family owned more than 150 acres and when Isaac and Thea Jacob moved out of Wasatch County in 1920 to Provo, they hired Cecil to manage their orchard, farm and sheep herd.

The Walls moved into an abandoned stone house a mile away from the Jacob's farm. The house was a one-room house with "a dirt floor, no window or doors, no plumbing, and no wall coverings."³² Having talents in building and refurbishing, Cecil was able to make this stonewalled house livable for the Wall family while he moved another home onto his own land and refurbished it. Cecil and Mabel lived in this small home with their three daughters, Evelyn, Viola, and Maxine. And on 29 December 1929 their first son, Howard Elden, was born to them.

Managing the Jacob farm and still working in the mines for a season and operating the farm was a family affair, which required the working hands of the whole family. While Cecil worked the land, Mabel and the girls watched the herds of cattle, sheep, and pigs. During the summer months Mabel's nephews, Jack Drietzler and Darrell (Buck) Mair lived with the family and helped on the farm. During harvest seasons, they would all participate in picking the fruit trees and harvesting crops from their fields. In 1930, the Walls moved into a new log home on their land in Daniels which Cecil built. Cecil's father, Isaac, and his wife Fanny would occasionally walk from their home in Heber to Daniels to visit their grandchildren, Mabel and Cecil.

During the 1920s, farmers, including Cecil Wall discussed introducing new crops in the county, including potato and grain seeds. W. H. Ottin, the superintendent of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, suggested growing head lettuce and other vegetables. In 1926 the county shipped 1,500 crates of lettuce to Salt Lake City. A 1922 article stated that Wasatch County was "well worth knowing" especially since farmers were raising the "trump cards": peas, cabbage, cauliflower, and head lettuce. It concluded that the county "cannot fail to be a winner in the agricultural game." The agricultural market did not expand during the 1920s, though. Between 1920 and 1930 there was just more than one half of one percent increase in farm land. The primary

crops continued to be oats, wheat, hay and potatoes. Nearly 40 percent of the state's mixed timothy and clover was grown in the county. The production of sugar beets dropped so the local farmers raised more barley.³³

The Walls grew beans, peas, and other garden-type vegetables. They were able to grow it successfully for many years. The Woods Cross Canning Company constructed a cannery in Heber which canned only peas at first, but subsequently canned several types of fruits and vegetables and operated during the harvest season until the 1950s.

However, with the declining agricultural market of Wasatch County, it became more and more difficult to sell their produce. This recession of economy came at a difficult time for the Walls and many other Heber Valley residents. During this time, Mabel and Cecil had their second son, Richard Cecil, on 24 October 1932. With the birth of their son and the inability to make a profit from their farming labors, Cecil was unable to make the payments on the farm and his other debts. Eventually they were forced to give up their farm where they had lived for nearly five years. However, they maintained ownership of the log home they had lived in.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The Walls were not alone in their struggle to find work and housing. Following the crash of the stock market in October 1929, the nation faced an economic depression as it had never before seen. Later this period from 1930-1941 would be called the Great Depression. The 1930s was a time of recession, unemployment, and agricultural disasters. As the depression continued, Americans elected Democrats in 1932. Shortly after taking office, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a holiday to stop runs on banks and launched an assault on Capitol Hill. His "Hundred Day Congress" passed federal relief programs. The Federal Emergency Relief Act assigned \$500 million as direct relief to states, cities, counties, and towns. That figure was later increased to \$5 billion. Harry Hopkins, the director of the Civil Works Administration (CWA) that distributed the funds, believed the unemployed of America wanted more than just a handout. They wanted to work. CWA money helped build and improve roads, schoolhouses, airports, parks, sewers, and water systems. Governments receiving the funds provided a partial match. The National Industrial Recovery Act included money for the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The PWA funded larger projects and usually covered materials; the WPA paid wages and required the local government agency to provide

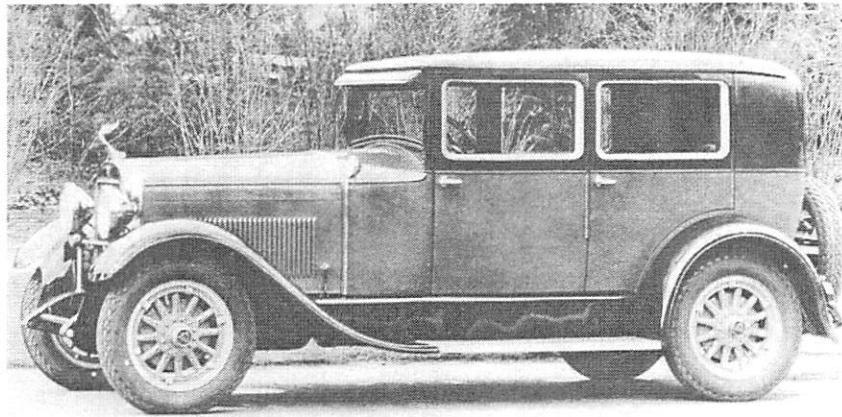
materials. Other programs included the Agricultural Recovery Administration to assist farmers and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which gave young men jobs. The Bureau of Reclamation also expanded, sometimes using programs like the CCC to construct reservoirs. Utah's new governor, Henry H. Blood, also announced a bank holiday and geared up the state to receive federal relief. The new federal programs meant jobs and welfare relief for Utah's unemployed.

Wasatch County residents like the Walls experienced the Depression in much the same way as did the rest of the state and nation. County residents were still recovering from the depression of the 1920s, so the New Deal programs brought welcome relief from unemployment and agricultural stagnation. Federal programs also transferred more resources to the populated Wasatch Front. Most noticeable was the construction of Deer Creek Reservoir, inundated much of the town of Charleston while it provided for a tremendous increase of culinary water for the Salt Lake City area.

Luckily after Cecil gave up the farm in Daniels, he was able to find work operating a ranch just north of Heber in a small community called London Spring, which was the site of the first farms in the Heber Valley. He worked for a rancher named Dean Clyde. Cecil's responsibilities were much the same as his at the Jacob ranch. Dean Clyde owned sheep, horses, cattle, and 150 Shetland Ponies. He also owned a large white stallion, which jumped over the six-foot fence that surrounded the corral. Keeping the stallion contained was a constant challenge for Cecil.



Cecil Wall worked for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) which build the Heber Library and many other projects beginning in 1939.



A 1928 Hudson Model "S" four-door sedan.

ADVENTURES IN THE 1928 HUDSON

London Spring was located far enough north of Heber that it was too far to walk to town. With this in mind, the Walls bought their second automobile. Cecil bought a 1928 Hudson from the Horner family in Heber.

Cecil had previously driven a Model T Ford, which had three clutches, but he was unaccustomed to the newer Hudson. On the day that he bought the car, the Horners delivered the car to London Spring but needed a ride to the Heber Power and Light plant a few miles away. Cecil offered them a ride. He called his family to ride in their new car and the Horners drove to the plant. After they reached their destination, it was Cecil's turn to drive. He struggled for some time and then asked his twelve-year-old daughter, Evelyn, to drive home. After stalling the engine and popping the clutch, Evelyn got the family home safely. Cecil eventually learned how to drive the car, but not very well. The Walls had several adventures in the Hudson. Howard Wall later remembered his father's problems in driving cars. "Dad had only owned three cars in his life: the 1933 Plymouth, the 1928 Hudson, and a Model T Ford. This was for two reasons: One, he never had enough money to afford a car. Two, he didn't know how to drive."³⁴

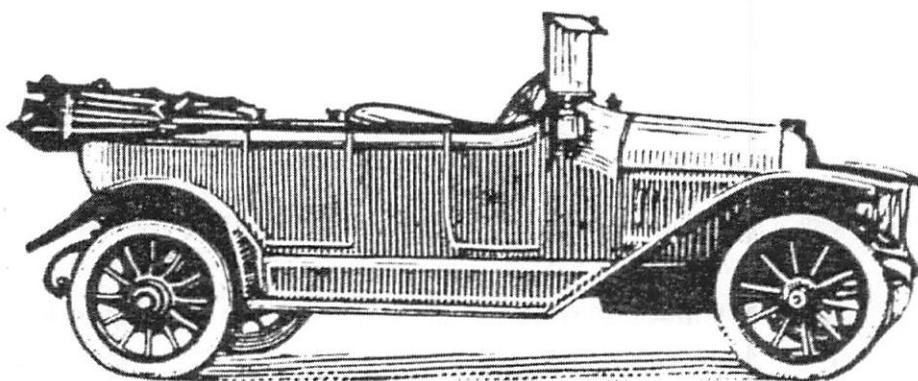
One such adventure came on the Fourth of July. Being a patriotic celebration, the family including Jack Drietzler, drove to Memorial Hill in Midway. The road was steep, too steep for the fully-loaded Hudson to climb. Cecil emptied the car and then attempted to drive up the steep hill, but the car was too hot to make the climb, so he backed it straight down the hill to the next circular road, while his family held their

breath. Years later while returning from picking wild choke cherries and elderberries with friends near Lake Creek, Cecil drove over a large stone in the road, which tore open the oil pan. After losing all of the oil, the engine seized and would not run. The car was towed back to their home by a team of horses and given to the children as a playhouse!

Holidays like the 4th and 24th of July were big days in Heber Valley. For the 4th of July, residents decorated their homes with bunting and flags for judging. The city brass band, the martial band, and the fife and drum band with veterans from the Indian wars, Spanish-American War and World War I drove up and down the streets, stopping at many homes. The community blasted a cannon and there was a parade of decorated wagons. All attended a patriotic speech in the tabernacle and then children ran races on the tabernacle's grounds and dunked for apples in wash tubs filled with water. There was a baseball game in the afternoon.

There was also a celebration in Midway. Miners brought powder to explode in the morning. At ten o'clock there was a program in the amusement hall and then residents drank from washtubs full of lemonade. Midway also concluded the day with a baseball game.³⁵

While living near London Springs, two-year-old Richard Cecil contracted pneumonia, a chronic disease marked by inflammation of the lungs. He was near death during the illness with his lungs filling with fluid. One night, Dr. Joseph Russell



Cecil Wall was more accustomed to driving this Model-T Ford.

Wherritt rushed to the Wall's home to perform emergency surgery to remove the fluid from young Richard's lungs. The operation was performed on the kitchen table under a single light bulb. The doctor performed the entire operation without administering anesthetics. Mabel and her sister Nellie held Richard so that the doctor could enter though Richard's back to clip a two-inch piece out of a rib and lance the lungs and drain the fluid. The other children were sent outside of the home but were deeply concerned for Richard's life. They watched the operation from outside the kitchen window. The procedure was a success and his lungs were drained. For several weeks Richard recovered with all his family closely attending to him.

After working on the Clyde ranch for several years, Cecil's employment there was abruptly ended. One day Dean Clyde returned to his ranch looking for trouble. He and Cecil got into an argument which ended badly. The Walls left the Clyde ranch only a few days after their disagreement. In that time, Cecil made arrangements with Mary (Mae) Jeanette Sessions for housing. Mae Sessions was the widow of Adolphus (Tobe) Sessions who died on 3 May 1935, just after the Walls moved in. Mae had a large family of 13 children. She was well known for being an "angel of mercy in the neighborhood in times of sickness."³⁶ Mae indeed assisted the Walls during their time of need.

Work was becoming exceedingly difficult to find in the Heber Valley. After losing his job with Dean Clyde, Cecil Wall and other men went into business for themselves. They cut timber and sold it to the saw mill and private citizens for their personal use and firewood. Unfortunately, tragedy struck again in the Wall family. While cutting down trees one day, the man working next to Cecil forgot to warn him while falling a tree in his direction. The tree fell on Cecil and broke his shoulder. He was unable to work for three months while his injury healed. During this time Cecil could not generate income for his growing family. Mae Sessions along with her children and neighbors were able to ease the Wall's burden. Sessions allowed the Walls to stay in her home without paying rent until Cecil was able to go back to work.

When Cecil was fully recovered, they left Mae Session's home. Mary Ann Mair, Mabel's mother, gave the Walls a lot just south of her home in Heber. Immediately, Cecil dug a foundation for a home and poured cement. The Walls still owned their house in Daniels. He decided to bring the house into Heber, fully intact, and place it on the foundation he had laid. Howard Wall, Cecil's five-year-old son, gave this eyewitness account:

He borrowed two large hay racks and two teams of horses, jacked the log house up on timbers, backed the hay racks under the house, lowered it down on the racks, hitched up the teams, and started for Heber. Sheldon Horrocks, Jack Drietzler, Darrell Mair, Evelyn and Howard [Wall] helped drive the teams, flag traffic, and sit on top of the house to hold up the telephone, and electric lines so they would not be dragged down. When the house arrived in Heber, Cecil pulled it over the foundation, raised it to free the hay racks and lowered it on the foundation.³⁷

Cecil's building and engineering skills saved the family a great deal of money that would have otherwise been spent on paying builders. Throughout the summer of 1935, Cecil worked on the exterior of the home. He installed new windows, doors, and prepared the garden. The Walls moved into their relocated home in August 1935, just a week before school started for Evelyn, Viola, Maxine and Howard who were all school-aged children at the time. Throughout the 1930s, public schools in Wasatch County were a source of heated debate. During the early 1930s, area teachers and the county superintendent often failed to communicate. This came to a head in 1935 when teachers complained that the superintendent cut the school year without notifying them. After heated discussion, the school board sided with the teachers, voted not to maintain Superintendent Ralph F. Nilsson, and hired Clarence Ostlund.

The next year the school had to be closed early again because of high health risk during a scarlet-fever epidemic and lack of funds due to the higher cost of playground equipment for the North School. To avoid the problems of the previous year, the board informed the teachers of the dilemma. The teachers agreed to the early closure if their salaries were not affected. The board responded that "all the public would be affected and that the levy would have to be raised, and that the teachers should come to the rescue of the people already taxed to the limit."

After a discussion, the teachers agreed that if the levy could not be raised they would take their last week pay in June. Ostlund reported resolutions of the problems in 1936: "School conditions in Wasatch County were somewhat disturbed when I assumed the Superintendency a year ago last July. This was largely because of an accumulation of local dissatisfaction that brought on an open rupture between the

trustees on one hand the superintendent and staff people on the other. Fortunately, time has assuaged many of these ills and so our system is rapidly recovering the ground lost during the period.”³⁸ During the depression it was difficult to keep all of the schools in the Heber Valley operational because they were expensive to operate. Some suggested that the state close all of the outlying county schools and bus the children to the schools in Heber. The schools were never closed, however.

On 12 May 1939, Mabel gave birth to the Wall’s last child, Dee Ann. Mabel gave birth in her own bed in their Heber home with the assistance of her mother and sister Nellie. Dr. Wherritt did not come until after Dee Ann was born. With their sixth child being born, the Walls had a full house.

WORLD WAR II

At this same time across the Atlantic Ocean conflict was beginning to surface again between Germany and other European nations. The world was still recovering from the effects of the Great Depression when World War II broke out in Europe. Under Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich, Germany was enlarging its boundaries. At the same time Japan was also expanding its empire into the Pacific in quest of political domination, raw materials, and new markets for her industries. The conflict began on 1 September 1939 when Hitler invaded Poland. The New Deal efforts did not bring complete relief to impoverished America. However, with the war stimulating the economy of America, the end of the Great Depression was not far distant. Japan launched an attack against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on 7 December 1941. When the United States responded the following day by declaring war on Japan and later Germany.

Even with the announcement of war, work was still difficult to find in Wasatch County. In 1937, Cecil began work with the Works Progress Administration. The WPA paid Cecil \$.75 per hour, during busy times he could earn as much as \$50 in a month. In 1938, 160 people in Wasatch County were on the WPA payroll. The Heber City government suggested that the WPA improve the sidewalks and install a sewer system. The federal agency did not approve the sidewalk proposal but agreed to provide WPA funds for a sewer in 1937. In 1941 the government extended the project for three years. The city charged fifty dollars for residential hook-ups, and the people laid their own connecting pipes. Ironically, at the same time Heber was planning a sewer system, the WPA paid for improving outdoor toilets. Ralph McGuire pointed

out, "Rather than putting the same money into building a bathroom inside of the houses, they just replaced the existing privy with one that was a little better." This included digging a deeper hole and installing a more comfortable seat.³⁹ The WPA also sponsored school lunches. Residents suggested serving lunches at the high school as early as 1925 so the students would eat more nutritious foods. The next year a hot lunch was served at the Daniel school. Supporters of school-lunch programs felt that the lunches would improve the students' performance in school.

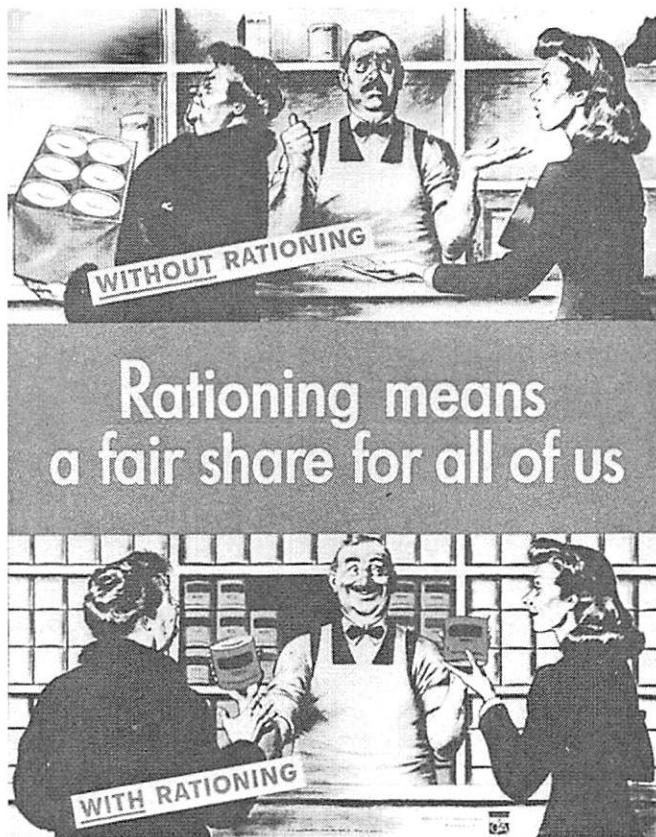
Cecil was able to utilize his building and engineering skills in this position of form builder for the WPA. Besides constructing a new sewer system, the WPA also built the Heber Library, a new road and a water system to the Power Plant in Midway. Even though the work was quality work, the pay was not high enough for the Walls to live comfortably. These were lean years for the Walls. Each of the children was assigned to do the chores at their grandmother's house as well as their own chores at home, most of which were raising produce and animals to sell.

Being a World War I veteran, Cecil and many others were promised a \$3,000 War Bonus. The U.S. government was hesitant at first to fulfill their promises. On 28 July 1932, 15,000 veterans marched into Washington, D.C. demanding their payment. They were later forcibly removed by federal troops, but they got the attention of Congress. In 1934 and 1936, Cecil received payments of \$1,500. It was a much needed bonus that was long in coming and long expected. Cecil used his money to build an enormous chicken coop at his Heber home. Cecil built this coop with all of the modern conveniences that he could imagine. Howard Wall later described them. He wrote:

They were the width of his acre property. They were beautiful with smooth cement floors, roosts that permitted the eggs to roll down to a collection trough, running water trough, automatic feeders, blinds on the screen-covered windows. These coops housed 3,000 chickens. The coops were cleaned, scrubbed and covered with new straw every Saturday by the Wall children.⁴⁰

Cecil's days were full but he always found time to help those who were less fortunate than himself. Almost nightly, he visited his neighbors who were sick or had other needs. He was always willing to share the little he had with others. He gave advice to those who asked and he was well revered for his wisdom and good counsel. Life was Cecil's education. He had many experiences with all aspects of life and he shared this knowledge with those around him. Cecil was also a skilled craftsman and builder. Whenever a neighbor was building a house, Cecil was willing to help in the construction.

One such instance occurred when Mabel's nephew, Sheldon Horrocks, wanted to build a house across the road from the Walls. He did not have adequate funds to build the house he desired and had decided to build a smaller home until he was able to accumulate money for his dream house. Horrocks asked Cecil to help him design and build the home. Howard Wall later wrote:



World War II-era posters encouraged Americans to use ration stamps, plant gardens, and salvage metals and other scarce materials.

Cecil persuaded him to build the house he wanted in three stages; a basement where he could live while building the rest of the house, a second stage of a half a house, and subsequently the other half to match the first and he would have a beautiful house without wasting any money. Sheldon followed his advise, except for building a basement and eventually had one of the nicer homes in Heber.⁴¹

Throughout the 1930s and early 1940s, Cecil was jumping from job to job trying desperately to keep his family from feeling the full ravages of the Great Depression. In May 1942, Cecil quit working for the WPA in Heber and worked as a carpenter at the new Geneva Steel plant (near Provo). They paid him \$1.25 per hour, which was \$.50 more an hour than WPA paid him, but provided many more hours of work. However, he was terminated just a month later, because he had difficulty reading their blueprints. After Geneva, he got a job as a cook at the Utah State Hospital



Heber City's Main Street in 1941.

in Provo, Utah. He was paid \$1.00 per hour at the hospital. Cecil worked at the hospital from June 1942 until February 1943. He was able to find a better job at Midwest Pipe & Steel near the Geneva plant. He worked at Midwest from February 1943 until July 1944. After working in Utah County for nearly three years, where he was dependent upon other workers for transportation, which was not always dependable because of shift work, job changes, illness, etc., Cecil took a job laying pipe for Heber City from August 1944 until October 1944.⁴²

In October, B. C. Fellentine and Henry Doremus of the U.S. Employment Service contacted Cecil about returning to Utah County to work for the Geneva Steel Company. For the many workers that commuted from Wasatch County to Utah County, there was need for dependable government transportation. Concerning the commute, J. B. McCowan, personnel supervisor of Geneva Steel Co. wrote Cecil a letter concerning his employment:

October 30, 1944

Mr. Cecil I. Wall
Box 491
Heber, Utah

Dear Mr. Wall:

In order that we may make arrangements for the transportation from Heber City it is necessary for us to have an accurate estimate of the number of men who will utilize bus transportation to the plant.

Present plans indicate that the bus fare can be established at \$.60 per day round trip, this being based on our securing at least twenty passengers who will ride the bus daily.

If you are still available and are interested in joining the organization we will very much appreciate your completing the attached form and return it to us promptly in order that we may be able to complete transportation arrangements at the earliest possible date.

Yours very truly,
J. B. McCowan
Personnel Supervisor⁴³

Cecil filled out the application for employment promptly. On the application, Cecil described himself as a 59-year-old with brown hair and a "ruddy" complexion. He measured five feet and six inches tall. He weighed 155 pounds. His only identifying feature that he mentioned was a scar on his left shoulder that he received when the tree fell on him years before.⁴⁴ Cecil began working at Geneva Steel Company immediately. He started in the coke plant department as a laborer, but Cecil was developing slight heart trouble and was unable to perform heavy and hazardous labor. He requested a transfer within four days.⁴⁵ He was transferred to the maintenance department and worked as a "pipefitter" until 10 October 1945.⁴⁶ During most of these years while otherwise employed during the day, Cecil moonlighted as a night watchman at the Heber Pea Cannery during the summer canning season. He also worked as a carpenter while building two houses of his own.

By 1945, the horrors and devastation of World War II finally ended in Europe on 8 May and in Japan on 14 August after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Wasatch County celebrated with the rest of the nation. The *Wave* recorded, "When the news was heard . . . the residents of Heber went wild with ecstasy, with sirens shrieking and wildly honking cars racing up and down the Main Street in Heber. Residents attended a free Tuesday evening dance in the Heber Social Hall."⁴⁷

The end of the war also brought with it a decreasing demand for raw steel. Geneva Steel Company experienced a decline in business. Several Wasatch County workers who were commuting to Geneva were looking elsewhere for work. Many neighbors were moving to Tooele, Utah to work in the Tooele Ordnance Depot. They told Cecil that he would be able to work as a carpenter at the Depot. After his last day at work on 10 October 1945, Cecil, Mabel, Richard and Dee Ann moved to Tod Park, Tooele 35 miles Southwest of Salt Lake City. Six months later Howard and Viola with her daughter Charlene, moved in with their family.

Only two years later, tragedy struck the Walls. Cecil's heart condition, which was unknown to his family, had progressively become worse over the years. On 25 October 1947, Cecil had a heart attack and died in Howard's arms at home early on a Saturday morning, one day following Richard's fifteenth birthday. Cecil was 63-years-old at the time of his death. Mabel was heartbroken after losing her sweetheart and decided that the family should move back to Heber. She, Dick and Dee Ann moved in with her mother, Mary Ann Mair. Viola, and her daughter Charlene together with Howard stayed in Tod Park, where he finished high school before going to Weber

College in Ogden and living with his sister, Evelyn and her husband, Bill Greer.

In 1948 Mabel and Howard purchased a house at 100 North 250 West, which all of Mabel's children worked hard to remodel and make comfortable. This house was six blocks from Mabel's mother's home, which she considered too far away. Later Mabel traded this home to Pearl Rhodes for one at 269 South 400 West, which was closer to her mother and sisters. Mabel's mother passed away in 1953 and her sisters died shortly thereafter, leaving Mabel as the last survivor of Andrew and Mary Ann Mair's children. Mabel lived alone the rest of her life, but was watched over closely by her married daughter, Dee Ann who remained in Heber, her other children as they visited, made repairs to her home, financed her needs, and provided her with loving care.

Her LDS ward members, Home Teachers, Bishopric, and friends looked in on her frequently and provided her with constant spiritual nourishment. Mabel enjoyed four years with her first husband, Clarence Olofson, prior to his death, and twenty-one years with Cecil. This totaled nearly half of the three decades she lived following her first marriage. Mabel suffered many illnesses during her final ten years, and eventually died in the Heber Hospital on 30 May 1979, at the age of seventy-eight.

She was a mother in every sense of the word. She endured many hardships while raising her six children. Mabel cared for them through their various sicknesses. She had a great desire to live and see her family prosper. She endured many problems with her own health. She survived an experimental surgery to remove a tumor from her breast, goiter surgery and severe back problems.

Mabel's father, Andrew Mair, came from Scotland with his mother, sister Mary, who was four years his senior, and brother, Alexander, who was three years younger. They landed in New York, rode the train to Kansas City and pushed a handcart to Heber City. Andrew's mother, Mary Mair, married the village blacksmith, Daniel McMullen, who taught his trade to Andrew. Andrew then became the blacksmith and was known for his ability to shoe wild horses, make excellent wagon wheel rims, and architectural objects out of steel or wood. He loved animals and always maintained some for eating and some he just loved to have around, such as birds, rabbits, parrots and even a monkey. Mabel loved to work with her father both in the blacksmith shop and in caring for the animals. They were inseparable when she was young, and devoted to one another as they both aged. Andrew died in 1924 of stomach cancer. His LDS High Priest Quorum presented his widow with a Proclamation of Worthiness and Service.

Cecil Isaac Wall's personnel file at Geveva Steel Works.

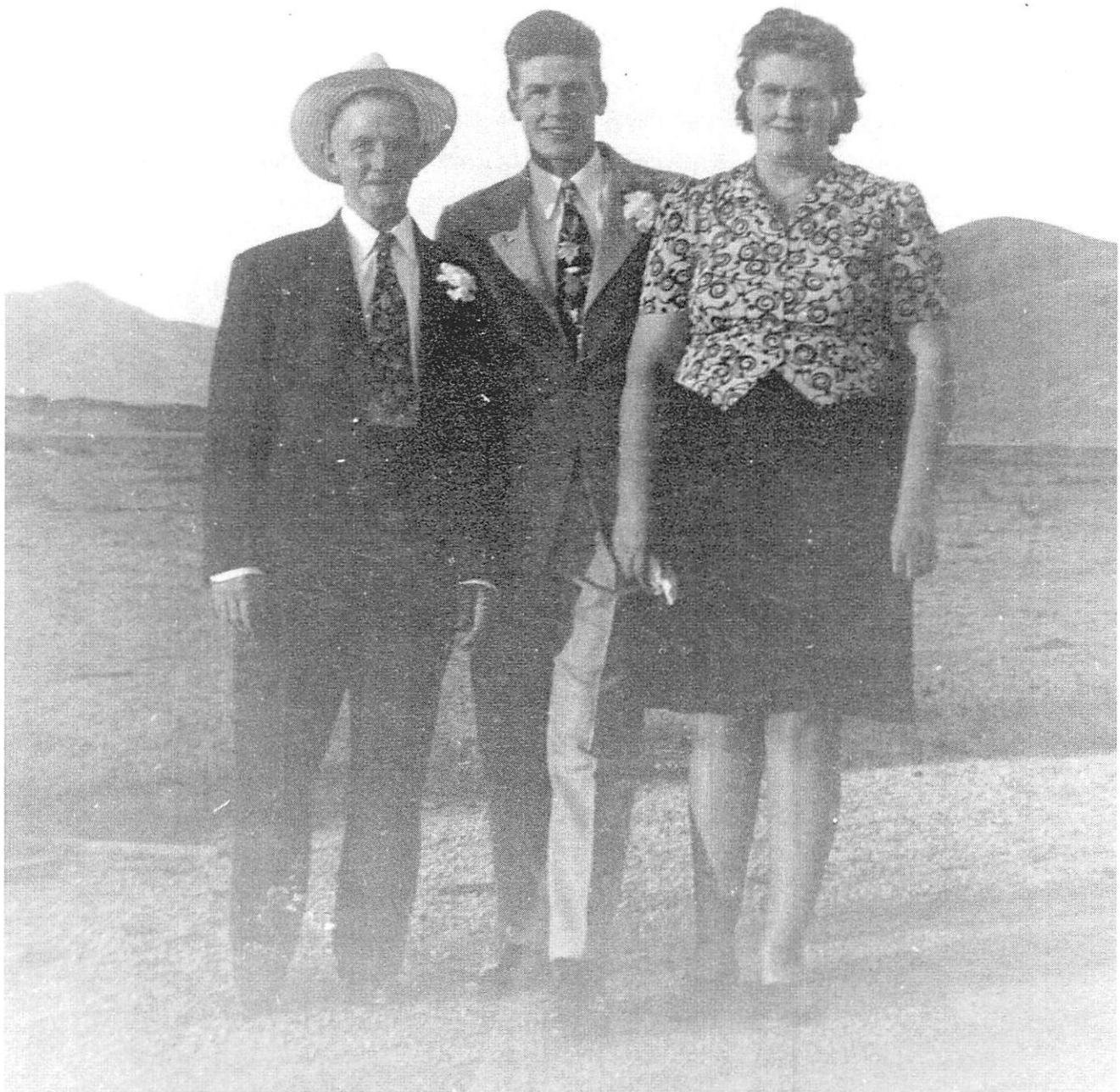
Mabel's mother, Mary Ann Mair, maintained a beautiful home, flower garden, lawn, made clothing for the family, kept her summer kitchen busy canning and bottling foods, and was a loving and devoted wife and mother. She was a Practical Nurse and brought many babies into this world and comforted many persons as they were dying. She had many stories to tell Mabel's children as they took turns doing her chores, and staying with her at nights as she aged. She died in 1953 at the age of 90. Mabel inherited her mother and father's loving and tender ways, as well as their excellent moral character and integrity.

The lives of Cecil and Mabel Wall were a reflection of what was happening in the world as a whole. They were survivors of a turbulent time. They survived both World Wars and the economic depressions that accompanied them. Cecil was able to find work when there was not work to be found. He maintained a garden of vegetables, berries, and potatoes, raised animals, and worked for others to obtain almost everything else his family required. He often referred to himself as a "Jack-of-all-trades and master of none." He took great pains to teach his children the Gospel, honesty, industry, independence and self-reliance. He required each child to work for the good of the family, and to enjoy it.

At the same time, Cecil gave each child an opportunity to make some money for themselves by raising animals that he would slaughter and sell for the children giving them the full proceeds, sell excess garden produce to the markets, and work for friends for which they were often paid in kind, which he would help them sell, whether it be eggs, hay, animals, etc. His children tended children, worked as maids cleaning homes, sewing, caring for lawns and gardens, milking cows, and working with him to build or repair buildings for others.

Cecil Isaac Wall held the Melchizedek Priesthood and the office of Elder. He was in charge of genealogy while living in Daniels, and at other times taught a class. In later years he did not go to Church, but encouraged his children to go. In fact, if they didn't go to Church he found work around the home for them to do on Sundays.

Mabel was able to raise her large family in spite of what was happening around them. They were both extremely skilled builders. Cecil learned to build houses from his father. He used his talent as a carpenter and a craftsman. Mabel was also a homebuilder. However, unlike her husband who used nails and wood to build a home, Mabel used love and charity as stone and mortar to construct a loving home for their many children and later, grandchildren.



Howard E. Wall with his parents in 1947.

CECIL ISAAC WALL, 1884-1947

A Tribute to Father

By Howard E. Wall

Father was born in Wallsburg, Utah on 14 September 1884, the third child and first son of Isaac Oliver Wall and Marcia Annie Glenn. He was a grandson of William Madison and Nancy Haws Wall.

Father was industrious. He worked for wages when such a job was available; and when no such jobs were available to him he worked for others farming, doing carpenter work, or what ever was available for which he hoped to get paid in kind. In this way he obtained farm animals, hay, grain, lumber, services, and articles for the family. He maintained a wonderful garden from which the family ate in summer and stored, bottled and buried vegetables in the root cellar for use in the winter. He raised animals for use by his family, neighbors and friends and to sell for cash.

Although he was born 15 years after the death of his grandfather, William Madison Wall, he had great knowledge and admiration for this ancestor. Father followed in the footsteps of William, and his own father, Isaac Oliver in taking care of his own family and the extended family through marriage and association. Isaac Oliver being the second oldest son of William Madison Wall, looked after his father's wives and younger children when William was away on church assignment and after his death. Likewise, Cecil Wall saw to it that his Mother-in-law, Mary Ann Thompson Mair, and her brother, Frank Thompson, and many of his friends and neighbors did not go without, especially for services he or a member of his family could provide. No one ever went hungry around Father.

Father attended school at the Brigham Young Grade School in Provo from 1890 to 1898 while his parents lived in Wallsburg. The Wasatch County schools had difficulty remaining open for a full school year. The parents of many Wasatch County students maintained a house in Provo where their children could stay during the school term. Father received an eighth grade education, but his learning never stopped. He was out of the state of Utah only during the time he was in the Navy during World War I, but then he saw England and France. He also visited ports on both coasts of the United States, and learned much about people, farming, architecture, building, economics, and the like. This knowledge helped him to understand life more fully. He was a clear, logical, and practical thinker. He ran an orderly family, farm, garden, life, and relationship with all he knew.

Dad considered himself a "jack-of-all-trades-and-master-of none." He farmed, mined, cut timber, performed carpentry work, cut hair for the neighborhood, nursed sick people and animals, cured meat, preserved vegetables, layed brick, mixed cement, etc. Many of the homes, garages, and farm buildings that he built or repaired are still in use today. Dad was a wonderful teacher. He attempted to teach his children everything he knew. We were all good gardeners, carpenters, farmers, and knew how to keep things clean, neat, and stored in their proper place.

Father sacrificed for the good of the family. He remained in Heber, where employment was difficult so Mother could be near and take care of her mother. He wore only work clothes so his daughters could obtain some of the clothing and things they needed to feel somewhat comfortable around their peers. In the seventeen years I spent with him, I can only recall that he purchased one suit of dress clothes, and that was less than a month before he died. When we lived in TOD Park, near Tooele, Utah my brother Dick and I attended school in Tooele, about five miles away. I was in student government, played sports, and worked at J.C. Penney's. There was no public transportation from Tooele to TOD Park in the evening when I had to travel, so I hitchhiked or walked. Dad suggested that we purchase a family car which I would drive. He paid out \$420 of the \$3,600 he had received from the sale of our home in Heber to purchase a 1933 Plymouth, which we were fortunate to get. This was in 1946 and commercial automobiles had not been made since 1941, due to the need for total production for World War II.

Father had an extensive knowledge of the Gospel, a testimony of it, and great faith, however, he did not regularly attend church during the time we children were growing up. He was an Elder and had been in charge of Genealogy when we were very young, however, living a distance from the church, working seven days a week to make ends meet, as was required during the war, he seemed to drift away and never corrected his course. He encouraged us to go to church, and when we did, we did not have to work on Sundays, otherwise we worked with him in the garden, repairing buildings, cleaning farm buildings, etc.

Dad's first marriage to Vashta Emily Mecham produced a child, LaVenia. The marriage ended in divorce when LaVenia was very young. Mother married Clarence Edward Olofson in 1919, and had two daughters, Evelyn (1922) and Viola (1923), before Clarence's death in 1924. Father and Mother married in 1926 and had four children: Maxine (1927), Howard (1929), Richard (1932) and Dee Ann (1939). The latter four are living today.

Father loved Mother and the children and did all he could to help us succeed in everything we did. He would say, "Children should exceed the success of their parents, as they have the advantage of their parent's home and learning and therefore start where their parents leave off." He was a great disciplinarian and taught us all to do that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. He took great pride in our accomplishments and praised us generously. He seemed pleased when we could out-do him in games, spelling, physical feats, etc.

Father never went to bed because of illness, only for a couple of serious accidents. When we complained of illness he would check us over and if it was serious he treated us as appropriate, but if not serious, he would say, "I think you will feel better after you hoe two rows of weeds from the garden." You know we usually did. He did not complain or even let us know when he was ill, or that he had heart trouble.

Saturday morning October 25, 1947 was a sad time when Father died in my arms of a heart attack at home in TOD Park. His services were held in the Heber Second LDS Ward and he was buried in the Heber cemetery on 29 October.

29 December 1997

MABEL V. MAIR OLOFSON WALL

A Tribute to Mother

By Howard E. Wall

Mother was born in Heber City, Utah on 24 September 1901, the ninth of eleven children of Mary Ann Thompson and Andrew James Mair, the Village Blacksmith.

Mother was a loving, obedient child and enthusiastically performed chores for both her Mother and Father. She was her Father's shadow in her youth. She loved to work the bellows to fire the flame in the forge in her father's blacksmith shop. She held the horses while her Father applied shoes to their hooves. She helped care for the many animals he kept in cages in a shed. He had talking parrots, monkeys, Belgium hare rabbits, birds, etc. She dearly loved the animals.

Mother attended school through the eighth grade in Heber. That was the extent of public schooling in Heber in her day. She admired her teachers and kept track of them the rest of their lives. Friends she made in school remained dear to her throughout her life and she enjoyed seeing them while shopping, attending church, and social gatherings. Heber was small and sparsely populated in her day, and she knew almost everyone in the city.

Upon finishing school she hired out to clean house, do washing and ironing, preserve fruits, vegetables, and meats, tend children, and other such things. She was healthy as a young woman and seemed never to tire of helping others.

Mother was friendly, cheerful, and enthusiastic, besides being very pretty. Accordingly she got along well with her sisters and brothers and had many girl and boy friends. One of her friends was Clarence Edward Olofson, a nephew of their next door neighbor Conrad Olofson. Clarence came from his home in Hannah, WY each summer to visit his Uncle. He and Mother became good friends over the years and were married 14 May 1919. They had two daughters: Evelyn 14 March 1922, and Viola 8 May 1923. Both girls were born in Heber, where Clarence worked as a motorcycle repairman, before the family moved to Hannah, WY for Clarence to resume his position as a railroad track repairman. The work was too difficult for Clarence's weak heart and he died following a heart attack on 18 March 1924. Mother's Father, Andrew Mair, died four months later on 6 July. Mother returned to Heber in August that year to live with her recently widowed Mother and to hire out doing housework,

while her Mother tended her two daughters. Notwithstanding the tragedies in her life, Mother remained positive. Two years later she met and married Cecil Isaac Wall on 15 April 1926.

Mother did not shy from work and found it agreeable to move, with her new husband, to Daniels, about five miles south of Heber to farm. She and her daughter's did most of the light farming while Cecil worked at the Park City mines, and did the heavy farm work. During this time she gave birth to three children: Maxine 24 December 1927, Howard 29 December 1929, and Richard 24 October 1932. Later, after moving back to Heber Mother gave birth to Dee Ann on 12 May 1939.

Mother lived for her husband and children. She was an excellent wife, mother, cook, housekeeper, helpmate, and friend to all she knew. She experienced much illness during her eight years in Daniels that resulted in several operations and long periods of recovery. During this time Evelyn, who was about 8 to 10 years of age, ran the household, cared for her younger sisters and brothers and helped Father with the outside chores.

During World War II, while Father worked seven days a week and long hours each day, Mother worked on the school lunch program serving lunch at the High School. Following the War the family moved to Tooele, UT where Mother worked in the maintenance Department of TOD(Tooele Ordnance Depot) cleaning vacant housing units to prepare for the next occupant.

Father died at TOD Park on 24 October 1947, leaving Mother a widow for the second time in her life. She had five years with Clarence and 21 years with Father, or a total of 26 years out of the 78 that she lived.

Following Father's death, Mother returned to Heber to be near and help care for her Mother and have the companionship of her three living sisters: Sarah, Nellie, and Emma. Her Mother died 10 October 1953 at the age of 90, Sarah on 19 January 1966, Emma on 19 June 1969, and Nellie on 4 March 1975. Mother lived four years as the surviving child of her family, she died on 30 May 1979, in the new Heber Hospital. Her funeral services were held in the Heber fifth ward and she was buried beside Cecil, on the north side of the Heber cemetery.

Mother was kind, considerate, tender, sensitive to other's needs, and always willing to help. She raised her children to love the Lord, respect all persons, and property. She made certain that we wore our clothes out rather than destroy them by tears or soil. She died in peace and with the conviction that her spirit would be in the presence of Christ, her deceased husbands, daughter Evelyn, parents, brothers and sisters and friends. She added much to the happiness, health, welfare, success, and enjoyment of all lives she touched. She lived to see her six children happily married and with children. She had 17 grandchildren at her death. She has no more grandchildren today but has many great grandchildren. She left a positive indelible effect on her posterity.

ANDREW MAIR & MARY ANN THOMPSON MAIR

Andrew Mair was born at Carbellow, Ayrshire, Scotland on 17 February, 1856. His parents were Allan and Mary Murdoch Mair. He was the eighth child and sixth son of a family of nine children. His brothers and sisters were John, James, Allan Foulds, Matthew, William, Mary, Janet, and Alexander.

Andrew's parents had a comfortable home, and although its furnishings were plain and simple, the family was happy and contented in it. His father was a hard worker and a good provider.

Mary, Andrew, and Alexander were good children. They, being the youngest of the family, were often off having fun on the heather-covered hill of old Scotland. Andrew helped his father somewhat on the farm. He had some rabbits of which he was very fond, and he took very good care of them.



Mabel V. Mair Olofson Wall (1901-1979).



This photograph of Mabel Wall and her children: Maxine, Dick, Viola, Evelyn, Howard and Dee Ann was taken in about 1967.

Andrew was ten years old when his father and mother were having problems over religion. In 1851, five years before Andrew was born, his mother, Mary Murdoch Mair had joined the Mormon Church with the consent of her husband. Her mother, Mary Murray Murdoch or "Wee Grannie" also accepted the Gospel and was baptized the same year. For awhile, they got along pretty well, but Allan would not have anything to do with this new religion and wouldn't allow the children to be taught its principles. Allan was a good man, but very set in his ways.

Mary had a very strong testimony of the gospel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and she so much wanted her children to know what a wonderful gospel it was. But Allan forbade her teaching them. In 1865, John and James, the two oldest boys, left Scotland to come to America. Allan Foulds, another brother who was twenty-one years old, was planning on getting married soon. Matthew, William and Jessie had all died in infancy, so just Mary, Andrew, and Alexander were left at home.

Andrew's mother kept coaxing Allan to let the children learn of the gospel, but still he refused. He told her she could go to America, but she would have to leave the children at home. He became very bitter. Mary became desperate to think her children were growing up in ignorance of the truths of the gospel, and in the year 1866 she made up her mind--she would leave her husband and come to America, bringing Mary who was thirteen, Andrew who was ten, and seven-year-old Alexander. She made plans and confided in her daughter that they would come to America and then go on to Utah. Mary told Allan they were going to visit some relatives, and Allan had given his consent. Andrew, not knowing he would never return to his home, asked his father to care for his bunnies.

A friend, John Aird, had secured passage for Mary and her children on the sailing vessel, *Saint Mark*. They reached Liverpool, England in safety and then boarded the ship in company with other LDS emigrants who were bound for New York City. They had a fairly good voyage crossing the Atlantic Ocean in four weeks. A few days after the ship's departure, Allan Mair learned about the true destination of his wife and children. He sent word to his oldest sons in Maryland asking them to meet the ship and see if they could persuade their mother to return, and if not to at least prevent the younger children from going to Utah. The boys went to New York only to find the emigrants had already begun their overland journey.

Mary and her children crossed the plains in Andrew Scott's Handcart Company and passed through all the trying experiences of pioneers making that dreary, tiresome journey of 1,000 miles. The company reached the Salt Lake Valley in October 1866. Mary went to the home of her brother, John M. Murdoch, who she had

not seen for 14 years; here they were royally welcomed. Both Mary and John had passed through many trying experiences and had many sorrowful, as well as pleasant tales to tell.

After a few years living in Heber City, Utah, Andrew's mother married Daniel McMillan. He was a kind man and was good to Mary and her three children. Andrew learned the blacksmith trade and did well at it. Some of his other vocations were herding sheep and farming.

On 24 July 1879, Andrew Mair married Mary Ann Thompson. She was a very pretty girl with black hair and pretty brown eyes and fair skin. In November of 1879, Andrew and Mary Ann were sealed to one another for time and eternity in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. They made their home in Heber City and lived there all their married life. Together they had a family of eleven children, ten of whom lived to maturity and had families of their own.

Andrew kept a cow, chickens, and a pig or two to help provide for his family. He also kept a few hives of honey bees. One day when he was trying to get some of the bees that were swarming, he was stung many times, and this made him so sick that he nearly died.

Andrew stayed with the blacksmith and horseshoeing business, but he had to do it the hard way, using bellows pumped by hand to fan the fire in the forge so it would heat the metal. After the steel was red-hot he would pound it on the anvil with a sledgehammer into the right shape and then he would put the finished product into a tub of cold water to cool it. He did some outstanding work. A masterpiece of his work was the steel and wrought iron braces Andrew made for the walls and ceilings of the old Heber Second LDS Ward meetinghouse built in 1915 (now owned by the Catholic Church). Andrew's motto was always, "If a task is once begun, never leave it till it's done. Whether great or small, do it well or not at all."

Andrew's love and devotion to the young people were outstanding. LDS Bishop Grand Broadbent and Patriarch Ralph Giles and others have told about when they were small boys and that if they ever had a broken wagon or toy that needed mending, all they thought they had to do was to take it to "Uncle Andrew" and he would fix it for them free of charge. Andrew was also very kind to the widows and fatherless children and to all who were unfortunate. In cases of sickness, such as epidemics of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Smallpox, and Typhoid Fever, Andrew was one of the first to give a helping hand and was always willing to give more than his share to help lighten the burden.

He owned one of the first surreys (a two-seated buggy with a top on it) in Heber City. They were very popular to ride in. He loved to go fishing, and many times drove a horse hitched to a buggy out to Strawberry Valley, which is about 25 miles east of Heber. He always caught his share of fish. He also loved to play checkers with his uncles, John M. and William Murdoch.

Andrew and his wife were always good to their children and grandchildren. It was a pleasure and treat to go to their home. On 6 July 1924 Andrew died at his home of cancer. He was buried in the Heber City cemetery on 7 July 1924. He held the office of High Priest in the LDS Church.

Mary Ann Thompson Mair was born to William and Sarah Fenn Thompson, on 6 October 1863 in Provo, Utah Territory. The family later moved to Heber City. She was the fourth child of a family with fifteen children. Needless to say, she learned how to work while very young. Her mother would send her to gather hops used in making yeast. She would also gather wheat straw, which her mother used in making very attractive straw hats for the ladies.

Mary Ann cultivated the art of cleanliness. She always kept a spotlessly clean house, and it was said she was one who could make a "palace out of a hut." She was nearly sixteen years old when she married Andrew Mair, and together they lived in love and happiness. Mary Ann was an angel of mercy in cases of sickness and death. She was a practical nurse and was called on to aid mothers in childbirth or to comfort a family in need. When she went to aid the sick, many times she would carry a kettle of soup or a loaf of homemade bread, a bottle of jam, or a cake or cookies to help out with the family meal. No one was ever turned away hungry from the home of Andrew and Mary Ann Mair.

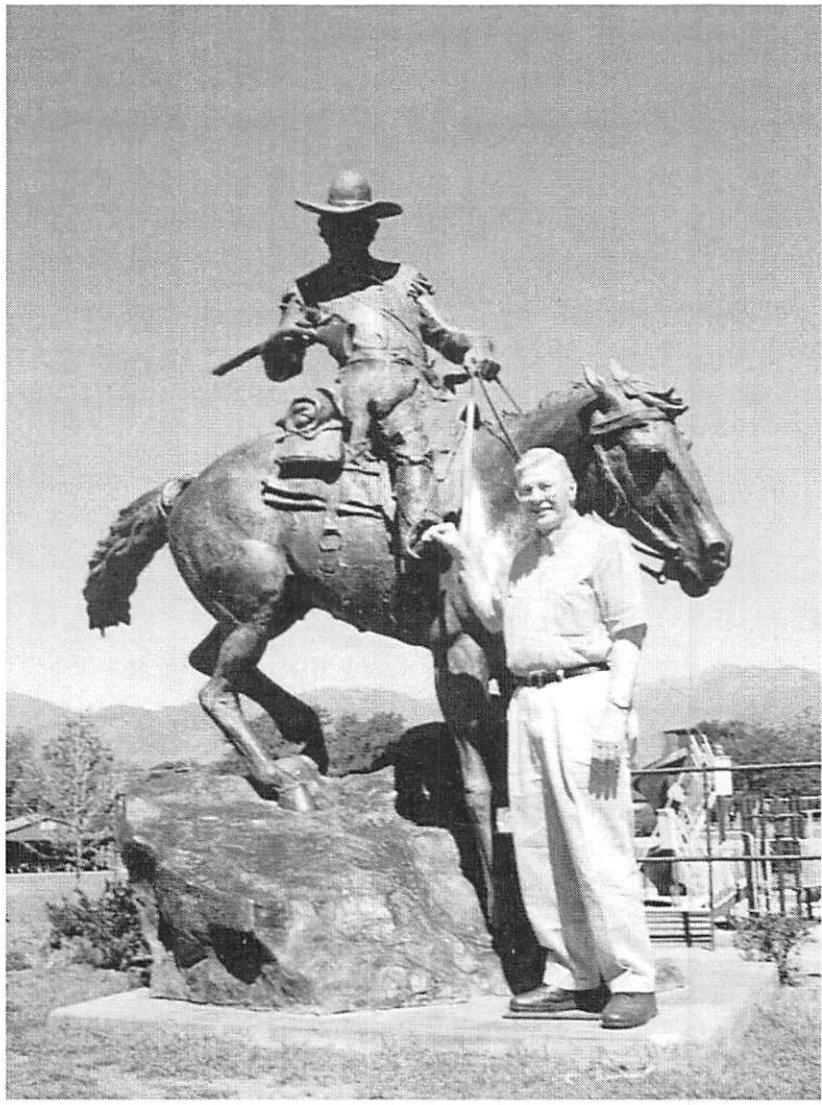
Mary Ann loved to do temple work. She performed endowments for many of her ancestors and kept accurate and interesting records. She died on 10 October 1953 at the age of ninety and was buried in Heber City cemetery.

When Andrew and Mary Ann Mair died neither left gold, silver, or great stores of material wealth behind, but each had stored great treasures in heaven. They left memories of their honesty, love, kindness, and charity on this earth.³¹

ENDNOTES

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- ²⁷. W. Dee Halverson, *Fifty Years of FM-100*, (Salt Lake City, 1996: Heritage Associates Inc.), 27-29.
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- ³³. *Wasatch Wave*, 2 March 1923, 4.
- ³⁴. Howard E. Wall, Oral History, interviewed 9 August 1996 by W. Dee Halverson.,17.
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- ⁴⁵. Transfer Notice, Cecil Isaac Wall, Courtesy Geneva Steel Archives.
- ⁴⁶. Separation Notice, Cecil Isaac Wall, 9 October 1945, Courtesy Geneva Steel Archives.
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Howard E. Wall with the "Journey's End" statue of William Madison Wall.